

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05

EB-07 AGR-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02

L-03 H-02 TRSE-00 DIWY-01 OMB-01 ABF-01 /106 W

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P R 132214Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2841

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA--AGENDA ITEM 60, DRAFT US STATEMENT ON FOOD

POLICY

REF: USUN 4895

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW IS DRAFT US STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 60 (FOOD PROBLEMS) UNDER CONSIDERATION IN SECOND COMITE. AS WE ARE SCHEDULED TO SPEAK ON EITHER OCTOBER 16 OR 17, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S COMMENTS SOONEST. EITHER FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATEMENT OR FOR OUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE LATEST STATUS OF COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS ON COFFEE, COCOA AND SUGAR AS WELL AS OF IFAD.

QUOTE

DRAFT STATEMENT: FOOD PROBLEMS

1. MAY I BEGIN, MR. CHAIRMAN, BY JOINING WITH OTHERS IN EXPRESSING MY DELEGATION'S APPRECIATION TO DR. HANNAH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOR HIS INTRODUCTION OF THIS ITEM. WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BOTH BY THE

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LUCIDITY AND THOROUGHNESS OF HIS REPORT AND BY HIS

PERSONAL EFFORTS IN THIS AREA OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US. WE HAVE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO PREVIOUS SPEAKERS ON THIS ITEM AND FIND THAT WE SHARE WITH THEM A GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND A BELIEF THAT URGENT AND COOPERATIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED.

2. I THINK THAT I NEED REMIND NO ONE HERE OF THE MAJOR IMPORTANCE WHICH MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE QUESTION OF FOOD. WE DO SO FOR MANY REASONS. THE UNITED STATES IS ONE OF THEWORLD'S LARGEST FOOD PRODUCING COUNTRIES -- AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR FOOD IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES. THUS WE HAVE A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE STAKE IN HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PARTICULAR SECTOR OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. WE ARE EQUALY AWARE OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. AND AS WE HAVE OFTEN SAID IN THE PAST, OUR INTEREST IN PROMOTING ECOMONIC AND

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT SIMPLY ALTRUISTIC -- WE RECOGNIZE THAT IN THIS INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, OUR OWN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IS INEXTRICABLY BOUND TO THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF OTHERS. AND FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, MY GOVERNMENT IS SENSITIVE TO THE HUMANE DIMENSIONS INVOLVED. THIS GOES BEYOND RESPONDING TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED IN TODAY'S WORLD. IT MEANS RESPONDING TO PEOPLE'S HOPES FOR THE FUTURE, FOR A LIFE OF SECURITY AND DIGNITY. IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT DR. HANNAH CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING: "IN THE END, IT IS ONLY THE PEOPLE THAT ARE IMPORTANT."

3. THE BASIC APPROACH OF MY GOVERNMENT TO FOOD PROBLEMS WAS SET FORTH IN SOME DETAIL IN THE STATEMENT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER BEFORE THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN NEGOCIATION OF THE RESOLUTION. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO REVIEW THIS POLICY IN DETAIL NOW, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO RESTATE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT.

-- THE PROBLEM MUST BE APPROACHED GLOBALLY,
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COMPREHENSIVELY, AND COOPERATIVELY, BY CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION AMONG ALL SIGNIFICANT PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS; -- PRODUCERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE GLOBAL INTEREST IN STABILITY OF SUPPLY, AND CONSUMERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE INTEREST OF PRODUCERS IN STABILITY OF MARKET AND EARNINGS; -- SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; AND, -- WHERE VOLATILE DEMAND IS COMBINED WITH LIMITED

ABILITY TO MAKE SHORT-TERM INCREASES IN PRODUCTION,
BUFFER STOCKS MAY BE THE BEST APPROACH TO ACHIEVING
GREATER SECURITY FOR BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS.

4. THE WORLD'S CONCERN FOR FOOD PROBLEMS WAS MOST COMPREHENSIVELY EXPRESSED AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER 1974. THE DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS AGREED TO THERE PROVIDE A PROGRAM OF ACTION WHICH DESERVE OUR MOST SERIOUS COMMITMENT. IN GOOD MEASURE, THIS COMMITMENT WAS RE-ENFORCED AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. IN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS DURING THIS SESSION, OTHER HAVE NOTED THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN ATMOSPHERE WHICH MARKED THAT SESSION -- A MOVE FROM CONFRONTATION TOWARDS THE MUTUAL ADJUSTMENT OF NATIONAL INTERESTS IN GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS. IN OUR VIEW, THIS IS TRUE AND IT IS IMPORTANT. BUT EQUALY IMPORTANT ARE THE SPECIFICS WE AGREED TO THERE. JUST TO MENTION A FEW:

- TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND THE EXPORT EARNINGS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;
- TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE VOLUME OF ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION;
- TO WORK AT REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES;

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-- TO ADOPT POLICIES TO ENSURE STABLE AND SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF FERTILIZER AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL INPUTS;
-- TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT;

-- TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

THE LISTING OF COMMITMENTS IN NEITHER COMPLETE NOR MEANT TO INDICATE ANY PRIORITY. I SIMPLY WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION MOVED BEYOND ATMOSPHERICS AND INVOLVED COMMITMENTS OF PRACITCAL NATURE. IT IS NOW OUR TAKS TO WORK TO FULFILL THEM EVEN THOUGH THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED ARE COMPLEX, SENSITIVE AND WILL REQUIRE CONTINUING EFFORT.

5. IN THAT REGARD I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES RECORD IN THE FIELD OF OFFD AND AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN GOOD. FOR EXAMPLE:

-- THIS FISCAL YEAR, THE UNITED STATES FOOD AID BUDGET PROVIDES FOR ALMOST 6 MILLION TONS OF FOOD GRAIN-- 60 PERCENT OF THE WORLD TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS AND AN INCREASE OF 20 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR.

-- WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA TO GIVE EFFECTIVE PRIORITY TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS WHICH ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF EARNINGS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE STATED OUR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS DEALING WITH COFFEE, COCA, AND SUGAR.

-- ON SEPTEMBER 29, THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED BEFORE A WORKING GROUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL A PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY HELD GRAIN RESERVES. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE FOR EARLY PROGRESS ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER AND ARE ACTIVELY WORKING TO THAT END.

AS SECRETARY KISSINGER ANNOUNCED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION FROM CONGRESS TO CONTRIBUTE \$200 MILLION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED OTHERS DO THEIR FAIR SHARE.

- SIMILARY, WE ARE SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZA-TION TO DOUBLE OUR BILATERAL AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE -- TO REACH TO SUM OF \$582 MILLION THIS YEAR.

-- DOMESTICALLY, WE ARE PURSUING A POLICY OF MAXIMUM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SO AS TO PERMIT US TO CONTINUE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL FOOD NEEDS. WE ARE PROUD OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES FARMER IN HELPING TO MEET THE OFFD NEEDS OF THE WORLD IN THE PAST. WE ARE SURE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO HIS PART. MAXIMUM EFFICIENT AMERICAN PRODUCTION REMAINS AN

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF OUR POLICY GOALS WHICH ALSO INCLUDE INCREASING
THE CAPACITY OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD TO MEET ITS OWN FOOD NEEDS.

6. A FINAL GENERAL COMMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN. RESOLUTION VIII OF
THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE DEALTH WITH WOMEN AND FOOD. SEVERAL RESOLU-
TIONS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
TREATED THE SAME ISSUE, EITHER
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO
REEMPHASIZE ITS CONVICTION THAT AS WE DEAL WITH THE
PROBLEMS OF FOOD, WE MUST BEAR IN MIND
THAT IN MANY COUNTRIES WOMEN PLAY THE PRIMARY ROLE IN
THE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING OF FOOD. GIVEN THIS AS
WELL AS OUR GENERAL BELIEF THAT WOMEN SHOULD ENJOY THEIR
FULL RIGHTS AS HUMAN BEINGS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY
PARTICIPATE EQUALLY IN THE DECISION MAKING AND IMPLEMENTING
PROCESSES.

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7. TURNING NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO SPECIFIC ITEMS
BEFORE US UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM, ECOSOC DECISION 118
(LIX) RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE A
RESOLTION CALLING FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS/FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD
FOOD PROGRAMME AS A COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND
PROGRAMMES. MY DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS
DRAFT RESOLUTION. IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE
TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM DURING THE 1977-1978 BIENNUIUM.
WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL, MY DELEGATION ACTIVELY SUPPORTS
A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER THE PRESENT TARGET OF \$440
MILLION BUT BELIEVES THAT THE INCREASE MUST BE REALISTIC
IN TERMS OF RESOURCES WHICH MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE
CONTRIBUTED AND IN TERMS OF THE CAPACITY OF THE WORLD
FOOD PROGRAM TO UTILIZE SUCH RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY. THIS
OF COURSE DOES NOT IMPLY A FORMAL COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED
STATES OF ANY FIXED AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE OF THE TARGET
THAT IS DECIDED UPON; WE WILL MAKE OUR FORMAL COMMITMENT
AT THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE.

8. WE LISTENED WITH GREAT ATTENTION TO THE REPORT
BY DR. HANNAH ON THE RESULTS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP
OF THE INTERESTED COUNTRIES DEALING WITH THE PROPOSED
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. AS I
INDICATED EARLIER, THE UNITED STATES FIRMLY SUPPORT
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A FUND AND HAS ALREADY INITIATED
EFFORTS TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL
CONTRIBUTION. THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED IN THE
MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP. WE ARE PLEASED THAT
SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN DEFINING THE BASIC

PURPOSE OF THE FUND TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A MEETING OF
INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS, OCTOBER 27-31. WE HOPE THAT THIS
MEETING WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE AND ADOPT THE ARTICLES
OF AGREEMENT OF IFAD AND OBTAIN INICATIONS OF PLEDGES FROM
THOSE COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO.

9. IN CONCLUSION MR. CHAIRMAN, LET ME ASSOCIATE
MY DELEGATION WITH COMMENTS BY MANY SPEAKERS WHO HAVE
UNDERSCORED THE NECESSITY FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
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ACTION IN THE FOOD SECTOR WITHOUT WHICH DEVELOPMENT PLANS
OF MANY COUNTIRES MUST FALTER AND FAIL. THE TECHNOLIGICAL
MEANS EXIST TO ASSURE PROGRESS. MY DELEGATION IS
CONVINCED THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY CAN GENERATE THE
NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL AND THAT AN ENCOURAGING BEGINNING
HAS BEEN MADE.

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